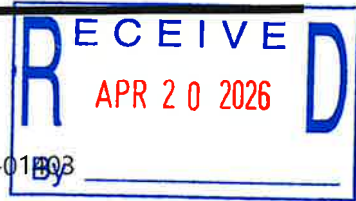


Kim Meador

From: Whitman Miller <miller_w@advocatesmessage.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 2:53 PM
To: appellatecourtclerk
Subject: Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403



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Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis. I strongly support the Tennessee Supreme Court allowing people without law degrees—like legal helpers or community justice workers—to deliver legal services and help with basic civil legal needs.

I am a teacher, and my school's community needs more access to civil legal help for understanding of rights, understanding of current climate, and understanding of recourse in legal rights. I support trained nonlawyers playing a role in addressing civil legal issues because of the cost of legal help - my belief is a lot of confusion comes from lack of legal advice due to cost.

I would want legal helpers to have oversight by an organization or company and short subject-matter training that can be done online; and clarification on community resources, rights available to communities, and clarification on ICE and public schools, teachers, and how they interact. I would want legal helpers to be able to assist with any civil legal matter.

I encourage the Court to focus on low-barrier solutions that make basic legal help accessible and approachable. Nonlawyers could complete short, practical training focused on specific subjects and could provide assistance through trusted institutions such as nonprofits, libraries, faith groups, and businesses.

The Court should also recognize that certain forms of basic legal assistance are low-risk activities that should fall outside Unauthorized Practice of Law restrictions. Creating clear carveouts for this type of help would expand access without sacrificing consumer protection. Tennesseans already benefit from existing consumer protection laws that safeguard against misconduct.

I'm grateful that the Tennessee Supreme Court is leading this effort to reform and modernize our legal system. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Whitman Miller
Signal Mountain, TN
miller_w@hcde.org